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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

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SUBJECT Bulgarian Refugees in Yugoslavia

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1. The Yugoslav Government, through the UDB, has divided the Bulgarian refugees in Yugoslavia into four main groups:
2. Group A: This group consists of newly arrived Bulgarian refugees who are kept segregated in small camps along the Yugoslav-Bulgarian frontier until the UDB has time to screen them and recruit agents from among them to be sent back into Bulgaria. This policy of segregation has been adopted because once the newly arrived refugee makes contact with those who have been in the country for some time, he learns of the treatment accorded Bulgarian refugees by the UDB and will not volunteer for missions into Bulgaria. The younger, newly arrived refugees are generally of good morale and are anxious to do something to help Bulgaria and, therefore, provide good material for border-crossing operations.
3. Group B: This group consists of Bulgarian students attending the University of Belgrade. As of mid-December 1951, there were about thirty such students: ten living in the Studenski Dom (Student House), and the other twenty boarded with private families in Belgrade. During the past six months, the Yugoslav authorities have become more strict in granting scholarships and most of the Bulgarian students who were at the University a year ago have been sent away, either because they were not serious students or did not cooperate with the Yugoslav-sponsored Bulgarian Refugee Society. In early December a group of 13 students was sent to the camps at Becej and Jesenice. Upon orders of the Yugoslav authorities, the remaining students have organized a "Students' Chapter" of the Bulgarian Refugee Society. This organization is headed by Maxim Petrov, a medical student; by a certain Chiolakov, former Secretary of the Bulgarian Emigrant Society in Belgrade; and by Kosta Gheorghiev. There has been only one poorly attended meeting of this group.
4. Group C: This group consists of Bulgarians who are sympathetic with the Yugoslav Government but do not want to leave Yugoslavia, and of exposed agents used by the Yugoslavs on Bulgarian operations and whom the Yugoslavs do not want to permit to emigrate to the West. The main camp for these Bulgarians is at Becej, although there are smaller groups in nearby camps at Zabalj, Volosinovo, and other neighboring villages. Because of transfers, arrests, desertions, et cetera, it is difficult to know the exact number of this group, but it is definitely over one hundred. This group receives shelter, food and clothing from

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the Yugoslav Government, and one thousand dinars per month for incidental expenses, whether or not its members work. All able-bodied men are expected to work, but as most of them are farm laborers, employment is seasonal.

4. Group D: This group is located in the Jesenice camp and consists of Bulgarians who have requested to be allowed to emigrate to the West, and of those whom the Yugoslav Government desires to expel from the country. The Yugoslav authorities have assured these refugees that the Jesenice camp is under the protection of the United Nations. In early December 1951, there were about 120 Bulgarians in this camp, but in mid-December, several groups, numbering thirty in all, escaped to Austria. As other Bulgarians are constantly being sent to Jesenice, it is believed that this camp will soon be the largest Bulgarian camp in Yugoslavia.

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